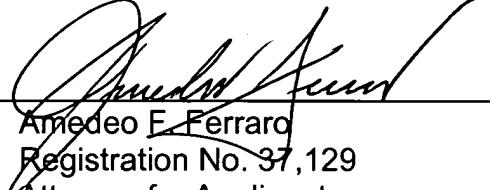


Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge  
any additional required fees to our deposit account 50-1066.

Respectfully submitted,

MARTIN & FERRARO, LLP

Dated: 7-22-02

By: 

Amadeo F. Ferraro  
Registration No. 37,129  
Attorney for Applicant

14500 Avion Parkway, Suite 300  
Chantilly, VA 20151-1101  
Telephone: (703) 679-9300  
Facsimile: (703) 679-9303

## CHANGES TO THE CLAIMS

19. (Twice Amended) A tissue rivet for holding two pieces of tissue together and to prevent movement of said rivet in the tissue made of a bioabsorbable material, comprising a single hollow shaft having a central longitudinal axis, said hollow shaft having a truncated conical penetration head at its front end, and a flexible member at its rear end, said flexible member having a width in at least one dimension larger than the largest width of said hollow shaft and sufficiently flexible so as to be capable of deforming so as to conform to an angle of insertion of said rivet into the tissue and capable of deforming so as to conform to the surface of the tissue in which said rivet is inserted, said hollow shaft having a plurality of spaced, separate, flexible projections extending radially from said hollow shaft, at least one of said plurality of flexible projections capable of flexing toward said shaft when being inserted in the tissue, said shaft and said flexible member each having a radius measured from the central longitudinal axis of said shaft, each of said flexible projections having a height measured from a surface of said shaft, the sum of the height of one of said flexible projections and the radius of said shaft being greater than the radius of said flexible member at least a portion of said flexible projections extending a distance from the central axis of said shaft greater than the width of said flexible member.